

CHAPTER 1

INSPECTING AND MARKING CLOTHING AND TEXTILE ITEMS

1-1. INITIAL INSPECTIONS

When damaged clothing and textile items are received in a fabric repair shop, they are inspected. These inspections determine if the pieces of clothing and equipment can be economically repaired in the shop and then reissued. The individual items are classified by condition. Faded clothing, noticeably stained items, and defective items which cannot be repaired or are not worth repairing are set aside. These items are used for scrap or for duties that damage clothing, such as painting. Items to be mended are marked with white or yellow tailors clay chalk. See Figure 1-1 for the symbol and meaning of each mark used during the inspection of clothing and textile items. Table 1-1 lists the areas marked by the initial inspector.

MARK	MEANING
	Replace this section or this piece of hardware.
	Darn this tear or hole.
	Patch this worn area, tear, or hole.
	Repair this defect, such as an open seam.
	Repair this hidden defect. The defect is inside or under the marked area.
	Attach a button here.
	Repair this small hole.
	Make a buttonhole here the same length as this mark.
	Lengthen this section the same length as this mark.
	Shorten this section to this mark.
	Let out this seam the width of this mark.
	Take in this seam the width of these two lines.
	Add a piece of material here to extend this section.

Figure 1-1. Chalk marks used on clothing and textile items.

Table 1-1. Areas Marked in Initial Inspection of Clothing and Textiles

DEFECT	REPAIR
Worn fabric, especially in knee, crotch, seat, elbow, and underarm areas	Patch
Frayed edges, especially on hems, cuffs, collars, fly fronts, and pocket flaps	Darn or patch
Holes	Patch
Rips and tears	Darn or patch
Open seams, broken stitching, and missing bar tacks	Restitch
Worn, torn, or missing tabs, straps, loops, and epaulets	Replace
Worn or damaged pockets and pocket flaps	Replace
Worn or torn linings	Darn, patch, or replace
Missing padding	Replace padding and restitch
Loose buttons and snaps	Restitch and replace missing or broken buttons and snaps
Frayed, enlarged, or ripped buttonholes	Remake
Broken zippers	Replace
Loose zippers	Restitch
Loose hook and pile fastener tape	Restitch
Missing hook and pile fastener tape	Replace
Missing or damaged buckles	Replace
Missing or worn drawstrings, laces, and belts	Replace
Missing or worn elastic	Replace
Other missing or defective fasteners or hardware	Replace
Areas that need alterations	Resize

1-2. FINAL INSPECTIONS

After repairs are completed, pieces of clothing and textile items are inspected again. Each item is carefully examined to make sure all repairs were done and that no defects were overlooked. The quality of repair work is also checked during this inspection. Each repair is examined to make sure the correct size and color thread, type and length of stitch, and type of seam were used. Breaks in stitching are checked to be sure they were tacked. Patches are inspected to be sure that they were installed correctly and that they match the color, texture, and weight of the fabric. Replaced parts such as zippers, snaps, and buttons are examined to make sure that the correct type and size were used and that they were attached correctly. Each item is also checked to make sure that a fabric repair specialist has not sewn together two pieces of fabric that should not have been joined. Items that pass inspection are reissued. Items that do not pass inspection are marked and returned to a fabric repair specialist for corrections.